



Annual Report 2004-2005

A Publication of the San Bernardino County Library www.sbcounty.gov/library



San Bernardino
County Library
www.sbcounty.gov/library



From the Library Director

It has been one year since we joined with Riverside County Library, Murietta Public Library, Moreno Valley Public Library and College of the Desert to create a combined online catalog.

Over two million residents of Riverside and San Bernardino

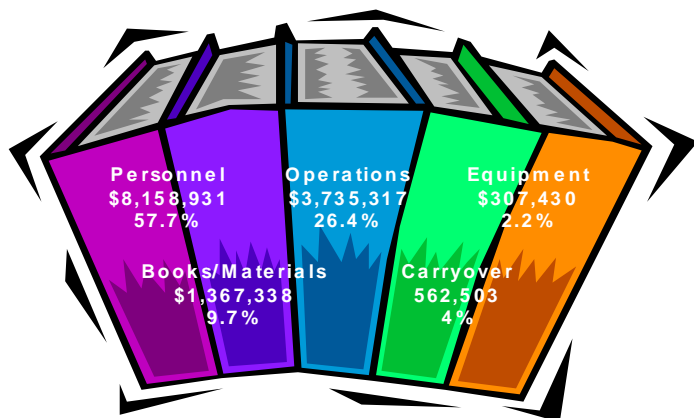
Counties are now able to access and request (free of charge) all the member's books, videos, CDs, DVDs, audio books, etc. through a unified catalog and delivery system known as iBistro™. Library borrowers now have convenient access to all 2.3 million materials owned by the member libraries.

All you need is a

free library card issued from any of the consortium libraries. The catalog is computerized and can be accessed at all member libraries and from home, office, or school. Materials can be conveniently picked up any of the member's more than 60 library locations.

The catalog includes cover art, industry reviews for many of the titles, table of contents listings and other enhancements such as a kids library with easy to search icons. The newly enhanced catalog has fostered resource sharing between Riverside and San Bernardino County libraries with 12,000 - 15,000 items each month crossing jurisdictional lines. The added subscription resources such as on-line encyclopedias and current magazine articles, make the catalog increasingly popular and of special interest.

- Ed Kieczkowski



SBCL Budget Fiscal Year 2004-2005
TOTAL \$14,131,517

Automation Services

Automation Services had a busy and challenging year. The main priority was the Sirsi conversion which entailed building network connections to Riverside County, creating multiple VPN accounts for Riverside and San Bernardino Counties and installing and customizing over 130 staff computers to work with Unicorn, the new Sirsi client.

A new patron phone notification server

was also installed and connected to the Unicorn server in Riverside.

The Department assisted in establishing 5 new training labs for Sirsi trainers.

Over 100 new computers were installed during the year.

♦ Wrightwood Branch received new computers to go along with their new building.

♦ Lucerne Valley Branch received new PCs and wiring for the future with their new building remodel and expansion.

♦ Lake Arrowhead received 10 new computers to serve

patrons after fires threatened their community.

♦ 29 Palms was rewired and upgraded in conjunction with their new renovation and entryway.

♦ Fontana Library, required the laying of 12,000 feet of cable and the installation of 30 PCs.

Work continued on the existing network and PCs to provide the best patron service possible. The installation of a new centralized version of the McAfee Anti-virus suite that is server driven, ensured that every PC is protected from the latest viruses.

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San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors

First District
Bill Postmus
Second District
Paul Biane
Third District
Dennis Hansberger
Fourth District
Gary Ovitt
Fifth District
Josie Gonzales



Automation Services' Mike Martinez ensures trouble free patron service.

PC Sign-up, enhanced patron printing capability, Internet service with improved filtering and the implementation of the latest versions of Microsoft Office for staff and patron PCs were additionally added.

Literacy Services

Literacy services in San Bernardino County Library continue to be an important part of the overall mission of the Library. Literacy, along with other outreach activities continue to impact the way we are able to



serve the public and reach out to members of the community who are traditionally underserved.

This year, thanks in part to the Verizon Foundation services were enhanced to include a program that provided



100 participants with Palm handheld computers. Participants used the Palms for a variety

of activities. Some did lessons on their Palms and "beamed" them to their tutors, some journaled using the notepad, voice recorder or the camera, and some played spelling games.

Part of the \$150,000 grant was also used to purchase circulating materials for adult learners that included family literacy materials, picture books and bilin-



gual citizenship and job searching materials.

The literacy program trained 394 volunteers who supported the program by performing as tutors, advisors or in an administrative capacity for a total for 830 adult learners. During the past year 846 children attended Family literacy programming and received free books to build home libraries. The LITE Mobile Unit made 130 visits throughout the year.



SBCL's literacy program received over \$90,000 of in-kind donations from local businesses, service groups, Friends of the Library, and others. Local coalitions raised over \$70,000 for their local library literacy programs. These funds supplement the purchasing of adult learner materials that the Library cannot afford.

Friends Of The Library

An ancient Chinese proverb reads:

*If you want happiness for an hour, take a nap
If you want happiness for a day, go fishing
If you want happiness for a year, inherit a fortune
If you want happiness for a lifetime, help somebody.*

Our Friends of the Library groups truly understand the concept of helping somebody. Their unending dedication and support of our county libraries continue to inspire us all. The collective contribution to their community libraries totaled \$559,000, an increase of over \$100,000 from the previous year. The funds provided much needed books, materials and programming. In some branches, the Friends provided funds for improvements such as custom built circulation desks, carpeting and even a Library expansion!

In September, Friends groups participated in downtown San Bernardino's Annual Route 66 Rendezvous for the 2nd year in a row. Fourteen of our groups volunteered and sent in books to be sold at our "Bookin' Down Route 66" book sale.

"A Prescription for a Healthy Friends Group" was the theme for our Regional meetings this past year. Four branches hosted this yearly event that gathers neighboring Friends groups for a nuts and bolts day of learning and sharing. In March our Friends groups gathered at our Newton T. Bass Apple Valley Branch Library for their Annual meeting. Many excellent guest speakers and presenters participated with the highlight being First District Supervisor Bill Postmus who welcomed and thanked the Friends for their work on behalf of their

local libraries. We are grateful for all that our Friends of the Library do for their Library!

They help in countless ways and change lives for a lifetime!



Friends' Route 66 book sale held at SCBL Administration.



Yucca Valley Friends anniversary party and (below) a glance at the annual and regional meetings.



Youth Services

Programming, resources/collection development and staff training remained key components of providing quality library services and customer service to the youth of San Bernardino County.

Storyhours were conducted for moms with babes in arms, toddlers and the pre-school crowd. Craft activities and game days were offered for elementary, middle and high school students during after-school hours and weekends. Teen volunteers augmented library staff efforts, assisting with decorating the library, Summer Reading Program (SRP) registrations, awarding incentives, crowd control, presentations of puppet shows, Reader's Theater, game days and serving refreshments. National observances, such as Teen Read Week, Children's Book Week, Young People's Poetry Week and various Heritage Month celebrations were also promoted to encourage participation in library events and recreational reading.

Volunteer Services

Without volunteers we would not be able to offer the excellent service for which we are known. Volunteers make things happen and we are thankful for the many ways they make a difference every day!

Across the county, from shelving books to assisting with special library events and programming, volunteers who choose to donate their time and talents to their local library do so without expecting anything in return except the satisfaction of doing a job well.

Each year we honor our volunteers with a special day of their own.

The annual SRP for both elementary school-aged children and teens remains a favorite reading activity, and attracted over 11,000 children and more than 1,800 teens in 2004. The western theme ("Ride a Wild Tale" for children and "Stampede to Read" for teens) inspired the Youth Services Specialists to invite guest programmers to share stories about the Old West, sing campfire songs, engage in Western dance, introduce live desert animals to children, demonstrate panning for "gold", teach about authentic cowboy and mountain man clothing and gear, show how to rope a "dummy steer", etc.

The San Bernardino County Parks' *Calico Ghost Town* was a co-sponsor issuing family passes to Calico to those who checked



The 2005 theme "**We Treasure Our Volunteers**" suggests we truly do treasure our volunteers who collectively donated over 84,000 volunteer hours to their local libraries. Each branch interpreted this theme in their own unique way but many used an under-the-sea/pirate theme that included sunken treasure, games and delicious food for all. Our County Librarian was on hand to personally thank volunteers and offer small tokens and certificates of appreciation. Volunteers of the Year for Library, Friends and Literacy were awarded a plaque and

out and read library books over the summer months.

Thanks to the Friends of the Library groups and numerous community sponsors a wide variety of incentives could be earned by registering for the SRP, visiting the library, checking out and reading library books, participating in scavenger hunts and completing additional activities and crafts. Most branches had culminating parties, with pizza, hot dogs, ice cream, cake, punch, cookies and other fun foods, along with the awarding of certificates of completion and final rewards and gifts.

This year over 30,000 new children's and young adult items were added and included board books for babies, picture books for preschoolers, easy readers for newly independent readers, audio books and educational videos. In addition, the newly developed Kids' Corner and Teen Scene pages found on the County Library homepage provided access to subscription databases, webpages related to school subjects, recommended



An SRP cowboy performs.

bibliographies and webliographies, resources for parents and teachers, teen issues, comics and graphic novels and sites that are just for fun.

Live Homework Help, provided by *Tutor.com* and funded by the California State Library, was offered at 14 branch libraries. This service allowed students to engage in one-on-one, real time chat with a qualified tutor in the subject areas of math, science, social studies and English...all at no charge. The County Library is one of only 29 libraries in the state to offer this free service.

a book (with a treasure theme) dedicated in their honor to their library. It is important to note that a large number of our volunteers are youth and teens. They perform duties that are wide in scope, some of which are assisting with the technology needs of our patrons, presenting skits and puppet shows for children's programming, decorating bulletin boards and creating newsletters and handouts.

The volunteers of SBCL truly are our treasures and we sincerely appreciate all that they do!



Thanks to our volunteers.

Facilities

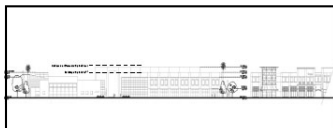


The San Bernardino County Library Facilities Department accomplished and assisted with two branch libraries that were remodeled, two relocated, three new geographic service areas were added to the planning process, three new buildings are getting close to the construction stage and one library received grant funding for a new building.



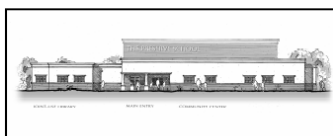
Carter High School, located in north Rialto, is a joint use facility and new service area. The library is scheduled to open in January 2006.

Chino Hills Branch Library is still in the planning



stages for the new 28,000 square foot library that should open in the Spring 2008.

Chino Preserve will be joint use project with the Chino Unified School District. The planning process is under-



way and the library will be integral to the Chino Preserve community and should open 2007.

Fontana Branch Library was relocated in August when the City needed to expand the City Hall. In November, the City of Fontana was awarded a grant of



\$10,900,075 from the California Reading and Literacy Improvement and Public Library Construction and Renovation Act of 2000. The new \$40 million facility will be 90,000 square feet and include state of the art technology, a grand hall, auditorium and a cyber café.



Hesperia's new 20,000 square foot library began construction in July of 2005 and the project is slated to be completed in August 2006.

Highland Library and Environmental Learning Center



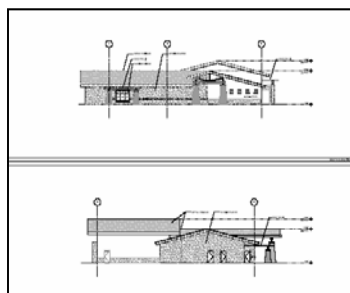
construction documents were completed and submitted for final approval. The 30,000 square foot facility will include a courtyard amphitheater, roof top garden and exhibit areas. It is a joint use facility with the San Bernardino City Unified School District and will house the Cypress Elementary School's library and provide room for school staff.

Loma Linda Branch Library was remodeled and expanded the Children's area by 400 square feet, car-



peted and painted the building in May. Another expansion is being planned to add another 9,000 square feet.

Mentone Senior Center and Library project was expanded



to include a park by the Board of Supervisors in June. Construction is planned to begin in early 2006 and is expected to be completed by the end of 2006.

Summit High School, a joint use library with the Fontana



Unified School district. The library will be providing library service to the residents of North Fontana in the spring of 2006.

Adult Services

SBCL continues to partner with the Riverside County, Moreno Valley and Murrieta libraries and College of the Desert to create a consortium which shares a new Integrated Library System (ILS) (including the library catalog.) A shared catalog and delivery system allows materials to circulate among the member libraries. Over 300 employees took one of 45 workshops offered to train staff using all aspects of the new ILS. The catalog has popular new features such as book jackets, book reviews, lists of best sellers and award winning titles. Library users can request materials from any of these libraries from the convenience of their home using the Library's online catalog. Over 100,000 books were exchanged between the San Bernardino and Riverside County libraries in 2004-2005.

Wrightwood moved in June to a larger building with more shelving, a meeting room and new furniture. The



children's area was expanded and was given a new outdoor nature theme. Funding for the project was provided by First District Supervisor Bill Postmus.

Victorville Branch Library was painted, newly carpeted and had new service desks installed in September.



SBCL patrons can now download an audio book to their PC or an MP3 player and listen to best sellers, book club favorites, popular authors and more. There is no limit to how many people can download a title, so there is never a waiting list for any of these audio books. Patrons can also renew a title online. Between February and July 1,660 audio books were downloaded by patrons.

There is continued interest in e-books among patrons. 617 e-books were downloaded this past year. The most popular title this year was *100 great jobs and how to get them* (22 downloads) and the second most popular title was *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Microsoft Windows 2000 Server* (19 downloads).